

Warwick Public Schools – School Committee
Parents Communication Advisory Board
7 p.m. Warwick Public Schools Administration Bldg.
Meeting Minutes August 6, 2009

Mission: To advise and make recommendations to the School Committee as to how we can better facilitate communication by and between parents, school administration and the Warwick School Committee.

Present: David Testa(Francis, Chair); Patrick Maloney(School Committee representative); Paula Breslin(Aldrich); Tracey McDermott; Edward Racca(Sherman); Marc Comtois(Hoxie); Barbara Supsky(Oakland Beach, Vets); Patti Nazareth(Greenwood); Dr. Peter Horoschak(Superintendent).
Absent w/ advance notice: Eve Bisard, Jessica Schad, and Heidi Ross

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by David Testa

Motion made and 2nd to accept minutes of June 4, 2009

Unfinished Business – (David Testa)

E-mail - compile an accurate list of current members names, schools and e-mails
1st day flyer - discussion on distributing first day of school with packet sent home from each school. Discussion on wording, responses sent to warwickschools.org, emphasize PCAC is a subcommittee of school committee.

Website update- PCAC should be listed on Home page of Warwick schools.org need for update to PCAC site as well as Warwick schools website.

- Plan to connect w/ PTA/O's – premature until we know what PCAC's purpose/goals are; need to be a permanent committee.
- Link b/t PTA/O and school committee. Try to get a PCAC rep @ Warwick Council (PTA & PTO's) meeting
- Need to provide school committee w/ written issues from PCAC
- Maintain data base of PTA/O contacts thru school department goal to have at least one parent contact for each school
- Need for by-laws for PCAC - Kristen from RI P I N sent sample of Cranston Education Advisory Board by-laws. Chair will email to Committee members for future review.
- Emergency Cards – need to add e-mail addresses to cards

Updates –

School Committee - (Patrick Maloney)

- Next meeting Tuesday 8/11/09 @ Toll Gate
- 2 temporary positions: Assistant to the Superintendent(William Sangster) and Lead principal(Dennis Mullen)
- Food service contract went out to bid -3 bidders Chartwell, Aramark, Sodexo

Administration – (Dr. Horoschak)

- How can the PCAC be helpful and supportive
- Determine a particular initiative ...

Dr. Horoschak's ideas

- Necessary components for effective involvement
 - 3 balanced legs -
 - content, pedagogy, relationships
- ❖ CharacterCounts! Character Education program (charactercounts.org)
 - includes schools, community, businesses, families and government
 - 6 Pillars of character as described in program
 - Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship
- How could the PCAC have a role in spearheading the CharacterCounts! Program in Warwick Schools?

Discussion

- positive note at school committee meetings are the student speakers from the schools
- impact of cutting Consumer Science classes
- need for a larger committee more school representation
- marketing of PCAC – successful initiatives – more consistent use of connect-ed
- should notice be distributed 1st day or later- pros/cons of sending 1st day
- decision to send to schools for inclusion in 1st day folder
- distribute thru Ad-bldg mailboxes, check Tech-center for copying

New Business

- Web site updates
- link to/from School Notes

Next meeting – Thursday, September 3, 2009 7p.m. Administration Bldg.

Motion to adjourn 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Nazareth